THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 339 Nos. of New Telephone exchanges are planned to be opened during 1999-2000 in Maharashtra State which includes 8 Nos. of exchanges in the Adivasi (Tribal) areas. The details of New Telephone exchanges in the Adivasi (Tribal) areas is given in the statement *(see* below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Statement

Details of New Telephone Exchanges Planned in Adivasi (Tribal) area of Maharashtra during 1999-2000.

SL No.	Station.	Capacity in lines
	DISTRICT-GADCHIROLI	
1.	Gewardha	80
2.	Murumgaon	80
	DISTRICT-KALYAN	
3.	Abitghar	152
4.	Dabhad	152
5.	Nehroi	152
6.	Talwada	152
	DISTRICT NASIK	
7.	Palekhurd	152
	DISTRICT- YEOTMAL	
8.	Parwa	152

Pending applications of Public Telephones in Maharashtra

684. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for allotment of Public STD Telephones pending in the State of Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the policy and the criteria for allotment of such STD Booths; and

(c) the time by which the allotments of such Public STD Telephones will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The number of STD PCO applications pending for allotment in Maharashtra as on 30.9.99 is 22S16. The SSA wise (Telecome Distts.) details are given in the Statement *(see* below).

(b) As per existing policy STD/ISD/PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed, SC/ST ex-servicemen, handicapped persons educational institutions and army establishments. The educational qualification required is matric pass in urban areas and 8th pass in rural areas. No educational qualification is required for handicapped ex-servicemen, SC/ST and war widows.

(c) The pending applications are to be cleared, progressively during 200G-2001 subject to technical feasibility and the applicants fulfilling the other conditions.

Statement

SL No.	SSA	Pending Applications
1.	Ahmednagar	341
2.	Akola	152
3.	Amravati	267
4.	Aurangabad	4270
5.	Beed	63
6.	Bhandara	88
7.	Buldana	850
8.	Chandrapur	120
9.	Dhule	1142
10.	Goa	Nil
11.	Jalgaon	1050
12.	Jalna	43
13	Kalyan	106

SI. No	SSA	Pending Applications
14.	Kolhapur	143
15.	Latur	385
16.	Nagpur	1780
17.	Nanded	374
18.	Nasik	1280
19.	OsnwMted	Nil
20.	Parbhaai	166
21.	Pune	7642
22.	Raigad	12
23.	Ratnagiri	162
24.	Sangli	21
25.	Satara	976
26.	Sindhudurg	75
27.	Solapur	244
28.	Wardha	496
29.	Yeotmal	108
30.	Mumbai, Thane and Raigad (Part)	160

Shares of MTNL

685. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to offload the shares of MTNL as a part of disinvestment policy, to a European Telecom Company;

(b) if so, the price at which Government proposes to sell its shares; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that it is offloading its stake at a proper price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No Sir.